

Malden Historic District
(4001 Malden Drive)
Malden
Kanawha County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-210-34

HABS
WVA,
20-MALD
35-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MALDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT, 4001 Malden Drive

HABS No. WV-210-34

Location: 4001 Malden Drive, Malden, Kanawha County, West Virginia
(Within the boundaries of the Malden Historic District)

Present Owner
and Occupant: Miss Mildred McDermott

Present Use: Dwelling

Significance: Built in 1898, this house remains in the ownership of the daughter of the first owner. It has been changed relatively little and, due to extremely careful maintenance, remains an outstanding example of the larger two-story frame house of the late nineteenth century in Malden. Its one-story front porch exhibits, in its use of decorative columns and brackets, the affinity for the decorative crafts common to the period. The original front door, still in excellent condition, reflects the same predilection. The house makes a major contribution to the character of the Malden Historic District.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1898
2. Architect: Charles L. McDermott, a carpenter and builder, built the house as a dwelling for his family.
3. Original and subsequent owners:

The McDermott house is located on a lot which is part of a tract of land at the mouth of Georges Creek in and adjoining the town of Malden that was devised to H. C. Dickinson and Sally Dickinson, his wife, in the will of Colonel William Dickinson.

Part of the 19-acre tract was conveyed by Sally Dickinson to Mary F. Malone, wife of Joseph Malone, by deed dated February 10, 1873, and recorded in Deed Book 28 at page 610. That deed also conveyed a dwelling house. However, the house conveyed was not the McDermott house. The present lot is part of the Malone property and was conveyed as a house and lot to Charles L. McDermott by deed dated October 5, 1897, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Kanawha County Commission in Deed Book 76 at page 395.

Charles L. McDermott died on November 3, 1945, and in his will of record at the Clerk's Office in Will Book 61 at page 23, he devised the property to his wife Hattie McDermott and daughter Mildred McDermott and directed that they were to retain the real estate as a home, and in case either of them should die "it is my wish that their half interest shall go to the one that is still living."

4. Alterations and additions: There have been only minor changes made to the original structure. A wooden clapboard parapet has replaced the original balustrade across the front of the house. The L-shaped porch at the back of the house has been enclosed to provide for modern bath facilities. The two end chimneys are closed off and no longer in use. The original standing-seam galvanized metal roof has been replaced by black asphalt shingles. In 1972, a detached garage was added at the rear of the property.

- B. Historical Context: Prior to the McDermotts' ownership, the property was owned by the Dickinson family, who were well-known salt and land barons of the Malden community and the Kanawha Valley.

During the time that the Malones owned the property (around 1873), Joseph Malone was an executive for one of the Charleston Banks.

Charles L. McDermott was an excellent carpenter and craftman, and worked for the Campbells Creek Railroad for many years.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This T-shaped two-story clapboarded frame house built in 1898 has a front porch with well-crafted ornamental details typical of their period. The house is relatively large for Malden.
2. Condition of fabric: Well maintained.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: This house is approximately 41'-9" wide and 44'-10" deep, consisting of three bays across the front. The plan consists of a two-story, T-shaped main block with two single-story porches (one of which has been enclosed) and a rectangular one-story addition at the rear.

2. Foundations: Foundations are primarily of stone, with a few insertions of concrete block and stuccoed work.
3. Wall construction: Walls are of wooden construction, the clapboards being generally 4-1/2" wide, though some areas have clapboards 2-1/2" in width. All exterior walls and trim are white, with the exception of modern wooden false shutters and metal stair railings, which are painted black.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: A one-story porch occurs on the north end of the east wall. Its roof is supported by turned wooden posts with decorative wooden brackets. The balustrade has been replaced by a low clapboard parapet. What was once a one-story, L-shaped porch at the rear has been enclosed.
5. Chimneys: Two end chimneys occur on the ridge line of the principal north/south gabled roof. Neither is expressed on the exterior walls. Both are banded by projecting brick courses.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front entrance consists of a carefully carved, late-nineteenth-century wooden door having two panels side by side, topped by a large, plain glazed panel.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Windows are, in general, double-hung two-over-two wooden sash units. Modern shutter-like elements composed of widely-spaced vertical boards flank most windows.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The principal roof is composed of a pair of intersecting gabled roofs covered with black asphalt shingles, though previously covered with standing-seam galvanized metal. A shallow, tarred hipped roof covers the front porch. A shallow-pitched shingled roof covers the L-shaped enclosed porch at the rear.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Cornices around the four sides of the building exhibit a shallow, undecorated fascia and open eaves with exposed rafters and purlins.

C. Site:

1. General setting: The front faces east from atop a long yard sloping down to Malden Drive.
2. Outbuildings: A garage covered with aluminum siding occupies the northwest corner of the site.

Prepared by James Murray Howard
Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings Survey
June 1979

C. Sources of Information

1. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deed Book, Kanawha County Courthouse Records.

Deed Book 28 at page 610.

Deed Book, Kanawha County Courthouse Records.

Deed Book 76 at page 395.

b. Interviews:

Miss Mildred McDermott, 4001 Malden Drive, Malden,
West Virginia. (Present owner of the house.)

Prepared by Donna Sue White
Historic American Buildings Survey
Team
June 1979

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) with funding from the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. The recording was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect of HABS, in the HABS field office in Charleston, West Virginia. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1979 by James Murray Howard (University of Illinois), Project Supervisor; Donna White, Project Historian; and Student Architects James Barrett Garrison (Carnegie-Mellon University) and Keith Edward Soto (University of Florida). The photographs were taken by Walter Smalling, Jr., Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Photographer.

See Malden Historic District (HABS No. WV-210), sheet 9 of 9, for elevation drawing.